



The Jewish

# Gaily Forward

Adar+Nisan+Iyyar 5772 ■ March+April 2012

## What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

### Pesach Second-Night Seder—15 Nisan

SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 5:30 PM

CSZ's "Home Made" Passover Seder is back for its seventh fabulous year! Celebrate Pesach with the CSZ community at our congregational second-night seder. Led by Cantor Sharon Bernstein and Ray Bernstein. For more information, please contact the office at 415-861-6932.

**Music in the Mishkan** continues its 13th season! Violinist Randy Weiss and his colleagues will present 2 more concerts, all Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m.: March 11, and May 20. Mark your calendars now!

### Sex in the Bible

TUESDAYS, MARCH 20 AND APRIL 3, 7:00 P.M.

Taught by Howard Steiermann Oh yeah...sexy in the bible! Join an exploration of erotic love poetry, The Song of Songs. Learn about biblical passages that most of us aren't that familiar with, such as: Invitations to be taken into private chambers! Watching a lover dance so that we ogle at their loveliness. A neck like a tower of ivory, begging for a tongue. This two part class will stimulate as well as educate. Different material will be covered in each session, so if you can't make it to both, come to one.

## Strategic Planning Preliminary View

*Town Hall Meeting, Saturday, March 10th, 4–6 PM*

**A**fter several months of exploring our key values and directions for Sha'ar Zahav's future, members will have the opportunity on Saturday, March 10th to hear an initial take on our developing strategic plan.

We started our strategic planning examination with exploratory workshops at the Leadership Advance in July. We followed with house meetings in October during which over 100 members expressed heartfelt views of Sha'ar Zahav.

Next, in order to gather opinions from members in a more comprehensive manner, a confidential online survey was conducted in late 2011. Sha'ar Zahav member Ruth Bernstein and her opinion research firm, EMC Research, assisted with the survey design, hosting and analysis. Out of over 400 adult members, 216 completed the survey. The following are some of the findings.

### Overall key findings

Survey respondents are overwhelmingly satisfied with Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Members value being a part of a progressive, LGBTQ, Jewish community.

"Welcoming to all" is a very strong core attribute of the synagogue.

While respondents don't want a typical mainstream synagogue, the improvements desired are generally the programming, member support and staff that a larger mainstream synagogue would have such as:

more opportunities to socialize and connect;  
support for sick members/seniors/those in need; and  
teen and young adult programming.

### Survey detail:

Survey respondents reflect the demographic diversity of the membership:

42% have been members for more than 15 years, 37% have been members for 6 to 15 years, 20% have been members for five years or less.

76% live in San Francisco with 47% concentrated in the Castro/Noe/Mission/Glen Park/Bernal areas. 19% live in the East Bay.

61% are age 50 or older, 39% are under 50.

84% identify as LGBTQ, 16% identify as heterosexual.

74% are partnered or married.

30% are part of an interfaith family.

40% have children college age or younger.

The most common reasons for joining the synagogue were: to have a Jewish community, to be in an LGBTQ congregation, to be a congregation with progressive values and to attend High Holiday services.

Members overwhelmingly feel a connection to the synagogue:

88% feel welcome;

(continued on page 10)



# Standing at a Crossroads



**SPRING IS** approaching as is our annual retelling of the Passover story. The start of a new season is a metaphoric crossroads. We can look back over the path we've taken to arrive at that crossroads and continue in the same direction, or we can chart a new path with our newly polished promises and hopes.

Crossroads moments can define us—moments when the decisions which we make, when the actions which we take, determine all that will follow.

When the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, they were not only crossing out of Egypt, out of slavery; they were also entering an unknown future, an entrance made possible by a moment of extraordinary faith.

This moment is marked by triumph, by a celebration in song for the redemptive moment of crossing the Red Sea. Both Moses and Miriam offer different renditions of this song. Moses proclaims, "I will sing to God for God has saved." Miriam, accompanied by her tambourine, chants, "Let us sing to God, this new song of victory."

Moses and Miriam, safely across the Red Sea, turn around and celebrate a moment at the crossroads, a moment of looking backward and looking forward, a moment of redemption. But earlier, in the moment of terror, with Egyptians at their heels and the waters in front, neither Moses nor Miriam are recognized and acknowledged by the rabbis who comment on this portion. The rabbis concentrate instead on the person who first plunged into the billowing sea—a little known figure whose name was Nachshon ben Aminadav. Nachshon is a curious hero. There is a brief notice of him in Exodus as Aaron's brother-in-law. And that's all. But not only is he not singled out at the Red Sea as a hero, he is not even mentioned! Yet the rabbis praise him for being the first in line to enter the water. The rabbis distinguish Nachshon ben Aminadav as the one who leads all of the Israelites to safety.

Our community is in the midst of strategically planning and envisioning our course for the years ahead. As we too approach the unknown of what will be before us, as we too

turn the calendar page and enter this new season, let us consider Nachshon's experience. It seems to me that he is a leader for our time. Nachshon is one upon whom the mantle of leadership does not fit snugly. He is one who is surprised by his own authority; yet he looks around and recognizes with humility, that he is essential to God's purpose. Aren't we all?

Nachshon is a leader for our time—a time when it is possible to enter the waters of change with both surprise and with faith, a time when the landscape is changed and ritual innovation is created by those who have not been the identifiable leaders, when a link to the past is accompanied by an eye toward the future. For Nachshon is not only a prince from the tribe of Judah, he is also the grandfather of Boaz, who, with the biblical Ruth, continues the messianic line through to David.

Nachshon reminds us that leadership and innovation may come from many quarters. Nachshon teaches us that a commitment to continuity and to redemption is found by looking forward as well as by looking back.

Taken together, the various description of the rabbis leave Nachshon's story surprising and ambiguous. In their diverse interpretations, the rabbis point to leadership arising from quarters where it is not expected. The rabbis were not sloppy editors. These Rabbinic teachers were reminding us that we, too, each face crossroads. We too can choose to enter the waves or we can hang back and wait for someone else to lead. And if we enter, it may not be with poise and quiet certitude. It may be with brash impulsiveness. It may be filled with terror at what lies ahead. We may be hanging back, looking around for someone else to go in first; we may be making a mad dash uncertain of what we will encounter; We may be listening to a still small voice, but when we enter the waves, we, and the waves, our world, are transformed. Our crossroads may not be in space; our crossroads may be in time. In our time we cannot wait for someone else to change the world. We cannot demure that we were not born with privilege, nor bred to expect greatness. We cannot blend into the crowd and complain about (continued on page 10)

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, and the San Francisco Organizing Project



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# Lech Lecha



**I'VE BEEN** thinking recently about our fore parents Abram and Sarai – and about the missionaries from Boston who traveled to Hawai'i in the early 19th century to convert the Hawaiian natives spiritually, economically and culturally. Both Abram and the missionaries heard a call to travel, go forth and, in essence, change at least a part of the world.

I started thinking about this as I was reading *Unfamiliar Fishes*, Sarah Vowell's eminently readable history of the events leading up to the United States' annexation of Hawai'i. Vowell starts her story by writing about the Protestant missionaries who moved in, took control, and gave birth to the people who would ultimately overthrow the Hawai'ian monarchy. What amazes Vowell about this group is not the missionaries themselves, men who were trained for this job, but the missionaries' wives. The men were told by their sponsoring organization that they couldn't go if they were single, so they went out and found women to marry them, often after only one or two meetings. Certainly some of the women were as fervent as the men in their belief that it was their duty to convert the "heathen," but for others it's not so clear. Vowell writes of one woman whose family basically tells her, we're behind you whatever choice you make. Vowell is astonished that a woman with such a supportive family in that day and age would pack up and leave for the unknown.

That got me thinking about Sarai. The Torah tells us nothing about what she thought when Abram said pack your bags, we're leaving. Maybe she believed she had no choice. Maybe she had faith in Abram and in G-d. Maybe she just knew there was a wide world out there and she wanted to see a piece of it. Whatever she was thinking or feeling, I'd like to believe that she went forth with confidence – confidence in herself and her ability to embrace change without giving up who she was and who she wanted to be.

Because, let's face it, change is scary. It's hard. It takes work and mistakes get made and sometimes you travel down the wrong path and lose your way. But sometimes you just have to "go forth," get out, move, because to stay where you

are simply doesn't work anymore. I think the courage to do that comes from knowing that, no matter where you go, you still have yourself, the basic core values that make you who you are. Change doesn't have to mean giving up the past.

Hanging in my hallway is a photograph by our member Andréa Guerra that she titled *Lech Lecha*. There's a similar print hanging over the stairs at Sha'ar Zahav, and one in our siddur (page 511). It's a picture of a pair of old, worn hiking boots, in the corner of a room or hallway. I bought this photograph from Andrea not just because of its artistry – the bits of color, the way the light plays on the boots – but because it comforts me and gives me hope.

To me, the picture speaks of both going forth and coming home, as if those are really one thing. The boots, a symbol of travels and exploration, are at rest, and I imagine the weary wanderer coming home to touch base with family, friends, herself. But the boots are out in the open, waiting for the next time the traveler needs to move. Going forth and being home are not mutually exclusive; they are both parts of the same trip.

It's important for our congregation to hold this knowledge, this understanding that we can go forth while coming home, because we are about to get our call to "lech lecha." By the time you read this, we will have a draft of our strategic plan, thanks to all of you who participated in small groups and responded to the survey that was sent out, and to the hard work of our strategic planning committee, Va'ad, Past Presidents, and other community leaders, and Alisa Gilden, chair of the strategic planning committee, Ruth Bernstein, whose company, EMC Research, developed the survey and tabulated the results, and Jamie Woolf, our strategic planning consultant. This will be our roadmap as we move forward, and it will be the touchstone that will ensure that we don't leave ourselves, our values and our history behind.

On Saturday, March 10th at 4pm, we will hold a town hall meeting to present the results of the survey and small groups, and a draft of the strategic plan to get your input before we finalize the plan. (See page 1 of this issue for more information.) I hope to see you there as we begin the next step of our journey.

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Volume 33, issue 3



# What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

(continued from page 1)

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21 7:00 P.M.**

**Rabbi Arik Ascherman**, Director of Rabbis for Human Rights will speak, followed by discussion and small group dialogue. Please do not wear any scented products to this event. Sponsored by the Follow up to the Israel Survey Committee

## Purim

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 7PM**

Merriment and Joy Abound!! Celebrate Purim at Sha'ar Zahav with: a costume parade, silly service, our phenomenal Megillah readers, the incomparable Sara Felder, a bisl Megillah in Yiddish with Henry Carrey, our annual Purim parody

sing-along, Gey Iz Mir - our rocking klezmer band, and Cantor Sharon tap dancing with power tools (okay, not really, but the rest is all true).

## Shabbes Beat

**MARCH 16 AND APRIL 20, 7:30 PM**

It's all about that Shabbes groove. Rock, jazz, Latin, and blues, with Cantor Sharon and the Shabbes Beat band and chorus. Sing, dance, and pray...Joy up, relax, breathe and sway...every third Friday of the month.

## Friday Night Live

**MARCH 30, 6:00 PM**

Friday Night Live Shabbat Shalom, people of youth! Come celebrate a Shabbat specially designed for 0 to 6 year-olds. Our FNL service is followed by dinner in the Oneg Room. We will provide pizza (sponsored by parents), and we encourage you to bring a vegetarian dish to share with the community as well.

Please note we had to make some scheduling changes for FNL. It will not be

happening on the first Friday of the month, but on the fourth or final Friday.  
March 30  
April (no FNL)  
May 25

If you have any questions please e-mail Kim Lezin-Haveson, the new FNL contact person, at: [kimhaveson@gmail.com](mailto:kimhaveson@gmail.com)  
And please consider sponsoring the program by sending a check for \$150 (for one evening) or for any amount to be added to our fund to provide dinner for families.

## NO Friday Night Services 1st Night of Pesach, April 6

Due to its being the first night of Pesach, there will be no Erev Shabbat services on April 6.

## Yizkor

**FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2011, 10:00 AM**

All are welcome to join CSZ as we hold Yizkor services, the service of remembrance. This is a beautiful service that is traditionally held on the seventh day of

## PRACTICE AREAS

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Passover. All are welcome to join the community to say Kaddish and honor your loved ones through the mitzvah of remembering.

### Sex in the Bible

**TUESDAYS, MARCH 20 AND APRIL 3, 7:00 P.M.**

Taught by Howard Steiermann

Oh yeah...sexy in the bible!

Join an exploration of erotic love poetry, The Song of Songs.

Learn about biblical passages that most of us aren't that familiar with, such as: Invitations to be taken into private chambers! Watching a lover dance so that we ogle at their loveliness. A neck like a tower of ivory, begging for a tongue.

This two part class will stimulate as well as educate. Different material will be covered in each session, so if you can't make it to both, come to one.

For questions, please e-mail:

HMSinSF@aol.com, or call Howard Steiermann (415) 695-9155.

### Literary Genius in Tanakh Stories

**APRIL 17 AND 24, MAY 1 AND 8, 7 TO 8:30 P.M.**

Most of the time, when we look at the stories in the bible, it is to see what moral we can draw from them, or else to challenge or oppose the ideas in them. We don't often get to look at them as *stories*, with suspense, irony, humor, sarcasm, information withheld, and unreliable narrators. This class tries to fix that. We will be looking at the Joseph novella in Genesis, the book of Jonah, and possibly a story chosen by the class for its literary merit. The class will be in English, but we may refer to some of the idiosyncrasies of Hebrew to elucidate some points. Taught by Gabriel Lampert.

RSVP to the CSZ office, 415-861-6932

## Chavurot

### Meditation Chavurah

All are welcome to join us at our monthly meeting of the meditation chavurah, First Saturdays, **March 3 and April 7**. We will be gathering in the reception area at Sha'ar Zahav about 10:00 am, and will walk to the nearby home of a member to sit in a lovely, peaceful setting. A typical gathering includes a short and longer

silent sit, often including a guided portion; some chanting; reflecting; and perhaps a short teaching. For more information, contact the office, or Sarita at [saritafit@gmail.com](mailto:saritafit@gmail.com)

### East Bay Chavurah

**FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 6:00 PM**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 6:00 PM**

Sha'ar Zahav members and their guests are invited to Sha'ar Zahav's East Bay Chavurah, held the second Friday of every month. Our evening begins with blessings and a vegetarian/vegan potluck. At 7:30, adults and teens continue our Shabbat experience with some meaningful text-based Jewish dialogue. To RSVP or host a future event, or get more information, please contact Jessica Israel Cannon at [jisrael68@yahoo.com](mailto:jisrael68@yahoo.com).

## Meetings

**Tikkun Olan/Social Justice (SFOP)  
meeting before services**

**MARCH 16 AND APRIL 20, 6:00- 7:15 PM**

### Va'ad Meeting

**THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 6:45 PM**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 6:45 PM**

All are welcome to attend and listen to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's monthly Board meeting with its pre-set agenda.

# Charlie Spiegel Law

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CSZ Member

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# Shalom BSPM Community



**THIS** month I had the wonderful opportunity to teach from our Siddur to a gathering of local educators. It was very meaningful for a myriad of reasons. I was proud to share the wonderful resource and to help these institutions create learning environments that are more LGBT inclusive.

I was also moved by the text that I was teaching from on a personal level. I would like to share that text with you and discuss the impact that it had on me and the group.

## For Our Teachers

*Grateful for your service to this community, we give thanks to G-d for all those who transmit Torah, the Torah of our text and the Torah of our lives. You are our gardeners.*

*Our teacher Yoel Kahn taught: "In our orchard, some of us will plant the trees, others of us will take the seedlings under our care. Some will water and feed the saplings: others will shape and guide their growth. Some will stand at the gates, always watching over: others will visit at special occasions of the year. All who have tended this orchard, whether or not we live to see the day when our trees come into flower, shall be blessed by the harvest.*

*As each of us grows, let us take pride in knowing that we are planting trees that will outlive us a feed generations to come. We thank God for the obligation to transmit Torah. Blessed be the Source of Life, whose Divine Spark links us together over all time as one continuous chain of tradition.*

This prayer has special meaning to me as a teacher and Jewish educator and helps me to frame the work that do. It is my hope that in my capacity as a Jewish educator I have had an impact on Jewish youth to find a love of Judaism and a place where they are held and seen. This has special mean-

ing for me as someone that does not have children of my own. In so many ways, I live a life that is traditional but in many ways my life has also be a derivation from that of a "typical" Jewish woman. The decision both made by me and by G-d that I don't have children has been a difficult and complicated one. This is not an experience that is unique to many LGBT people and is particularly true of many people who were born LGBT in generations that preceded me. That is why the *kavannah* (intention) of being a village that raises children has special meaning to me and to so many members of Sha'ar Zahav.

I like to say, that the children at Sha'ar Zahav are all our children. They are the children of our community and this passage in our Siddur speaks to the many ways that you can help the "seeds" in our community grow even if you are not the soil they were born from etc. We model that at Sha'ar Zahav by the work we do to integrate silos of our community. I can't tell you what *naches* (pride), I got this past weekend when I say multi-generational workshops where our youth were learning from some of the founders and scholars in our community.

This mandate is also reinforced by our mentoring program which is unique to our synagogue and I believe one of the most innovative, radical and powerful ways of transmitting Torah. Our mentor program, pairs adults in the community with B'nei Mitzvah students to do a year long *hevruta* (study partnership). This is as much about sharing wisdom as it is about building relationship and I have seen the most beautiful fruit emerge from the garden of this program.

I think in many ways we are programmed to think about what is going to be best for our family, our children and weather the storm of life in a way that focuses on our nuclear family, even if that is a non-traditional family. I am going to encourage all the members of

Sha'ar Zahav and our youth to continue to redefine family and understand that in many ways family can be broadened to the idea of deep community.

Will you partner with me and continue to grow this amazing garden that is Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer? Will you continue to think of ways that you can give back with time, sheckels or teaching that help to enrich our *gan eden* (Garden of Eden). I ask you because I think transmitting Torah to young people is one of the most joyous *mitzvot* that we can fulfill as Jews. I also ask you, because I need your help, ideas, wisdom and strength. Please take some time to think about how you can get more deeply involved in our school, and I will be following up with invitations and opportunities for you to fulfill this *mitzvah*.

Finally, I want to express my deep gratitude for letting me share learning with you families. I consider it an honor every week and it fills me with great meaning and joy. I certainly know how I have been blessed by the seedlings that run through the hallways each week and know that they are essential branches of what makes up our *Etz Chaim*. (Tree of Life).

L'Shalom,  
Rebecca



# Introducing the B'nei Mitzvah

## Avidan Rene Novogrodsky-Godt



Avidan Rene Novogrodsky-Godt will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on April 21, 2012. Avidan has been a member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav since before he was born. He is a 7th grader at Creative Arts Charter School. He has many interests including film making, theater, skateboarding, music, playing

guitar, movies and reading. He enjoys spending time with friends and family. He has a strong sense of social justice. He has done a variety of community service projects this past year from the AIDS Walk, volunteering at Glide and the San Francisco Food Bank. He also has participated in Team Tzedek activities. This semester Avidan is working with the Center for Elderly and Youth in the Arts (CEYA) doing poetry writing with seniors. Avidan has attended Camp Tawonga every summer since he was 8 years old. He has also gone to

Keshet, the LGBT family camp at Tawonga almost every year since he was two. Avidan is a true Tawongan.

In the spirit of Tikkun Olam, Avidan will be having a food drive for the San Francisco Food Bank during the week prior to and on his Bar Mitzvah day, please feel free to donate to help feed people who are in need in our city. The most needed foods are rice, pasta, canned fruit, tuna, canned meat, soup, stews, chili, peanut butter and cereal.

Avidan would like to thank Avi Goldberg his fabulous Bar Mitzvah mentor, and the entire Garcia-Goldberg family for sharing Avi with him. He would also like to thank his Beit Sefer teachers and Rebecca Weiner, Rabbi Camille Angel and all the people who have generously co-lead services with him. He would also like to thank Regina Wurst and the entire synagogue staff. Avidan would like to do a special shout out to Cantor Bernstein who has been meeting with him during this process. Finally, Avidan would like to thank his moms, his sister Chava and his dog Tippy for supporting him through this process.

**g<sup>3</sup>mh**

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9 NISAN 1	10 NISAN 2	11 NISAN 7:00 pm Sex in the Bible 3	12 NISAN 4	13 NISAN 5	14 NISAN Erev Pesach – First Seder No Shabbat Services 6	15 NISAN 9 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service 5:00 pm Congregational Seder 7
16 NISAN 8	17 NISAN 9	18 NISAN 10	19 NISAN 11	20 NISAN 12	21 NISAN 10 am Yizkor Service 7:30 pm Shabbat Service 13	22 NISAN 9 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service 14
23 NISAN 15	24 NISAN 16	25 NISAN 7 pm Literary Tanakh 17	26 NISAN 18	27 NISAN 6:45 pm Va'ad Meeting 19	28 NISAN 6:00 pm Tikkun Olam Com Mt 7:30 pm Shabbat Beat 20	29 NISAN 9 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service Avidan Novogrodsky- Godt Bar Mitzvah 21
30 NISAN 22	1 IYYAN 23	2 IYYAN 7 pm Literary Tanakh 24	3 IYYAN 25	4 IYYAN 26	5 IYYAN 7:30 pm Shabbat Service 27	6 IYYAN 9 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service 28
7 IYYAN 29	8 IYYAN 30					



## Strategic Planning

(continued from page 1)

86% see people they know and can talk to;  
83% feel comfortable approaching a clergy person; and  
75% feel connected to the community.  
CSZ is perceived as welcoming, innovative and strongly  
valuing member participation:  
97% agree that CSZ welcomes all sexual identities and  
sexual orientations;  
94% agree that CSZ values volunteers and active partici-  
pation;  
91% agree that CSZ welcomes families and children;  
86% agree that CSZ is innovative; and  
86% agree that CSZ welcomes people of all ages.  
Most respondents of the survey are overwhelmingly satis-  
fied:  
69% plan to continue their membership for as long as  
they live in the community;  
90% are satisfied with high holiday worship;  
89% are satisfied with the facilities/building;  
86% are satisfied with festivals/holiday worship and pro-  
grams; and  
85% are satisfied with the role of lay leadership.  
There are some areas where members suggest improve-  
ments:  
More/varied programming and opportunities for socializing;  
More satisfying/spiritual/lively services;  
Support for the sick and those in need; and  
Teen/young adult programming  
When given strategic choices about the future of the syn-  
agogue, members would like CSZ to maintain the Jewish

diversity of the congregation and its LGBTQ focus. Mem-  
bers are more divided on issues like the size of the con-  
gregation, English versus Hebrew liturgy and the role of  
lay leadership versus clergy. Many members appear to be  
satisfied with the way things are now.

### What's Next?

The Strategic Planning Committee is developing a prelimi-  
nary plan based on findings from the Leadership Advance,  
the house meetings, interviews with clergy, staff and leaders,  
the survey results and another round of leadership work-  
shops. This draft plan will be shared with members at a  
Town Hall meeting on Saturday, March 10th from 4 to 6pm  
at the synagogue. Ruth will present highlights from the sur-  
vey and we'll have time for questions and discussion about  
the preliminary plan and survey results

With the guidance of Strategic Planning chair Alisa  
Gilden, our consultant Jamie Woolf, President Karen  
Schiller, Rabbi Angel and Cantor Bernstein, the Committee  
hopes to have a plan ready to present to the Va'ad in April  
and then to the Congregation at our annual meeting on  
Monday, May 21st. Next up, though, is March 10th. We  
hope that all members will attend.

*Alex Ingersoll, for the Strategic Planning Committee*

## Standing at a Crossroads

(continued from page 2)

the future. We are needed way too much for that.

For us, such a moment to enter the waves may come as a  
cry for social justice, when we unexpectedly find our voice  
waxing prophetic, it may come as we read a book in which we  
are seized with understanding about our place in the world. It  
may come when we look into the eyes of the one we love and  
decide, yes, I will make my life with this person. It may be  
when we discover our purpose and commit to carrying it out.

Like Nachshon, we each face a crossroads. Like Moses and  
Miriam, we want to sing and celebrate success. Each of us in  
this community has gifts given to us by God. Each of us in  
this congregation has fears or impulses, which may not serve  
us well. Each of us in this communal endeavor sometimes  
thinks of ourselves as smaller than we might be.

As a congregation and as individuals, we do or we will  
each face a crossroads. We are or we will be asked to be lead-  
ers in a variety of realms. And if we enter the waves, if we

speak and act out of awe and out of gratitude, if we look  
around and trust our vision, we may, surprisingly, discover at  
the crossroads, that we too are bathed in and buoyed by the  
presence of God. And then, may we be privileged to sing a  
new song in thanks and in reverence. May our Pesach season  
be filled with health, courage and blessing for the journey.

Your lucky rabbi, Camille Shira



## AIDS Fund

**Allan Berenstein** in memory of Ron Wilmot, Allen Harris and Jason Gaber.

## Cantor's Discretionary Fund

**Allan Berenstein**

**Batya Kalis** in appreciation of Cantor Bernstein.

## Chesir Stein Music Fund

**Marjorie Hilsenrad** in honor of Rabbi Angel and Cantor Bernstein.

## CSZ Siddur Bookplates

**Allan Berenstein** in honor of Alex Ingersoll's bar mitzvah.

## Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk Musical Event Fund

**Jonathan Funk** in memory of Bernice Wiseman.  
in memory of Minnie Wiseman.  
in memory of his mother, Pearl Funk.  
in appreciation of Sharyn Saslafsky, Nancy Meyer, Steve Mazer and Richard Meyerson for their support of Cantor Unplugged V.  
**Jonathan Funk & John Arnold** in honor of Ruth Rainero & Pieter de Haan's 25th anniversary.  
in appreciation of Cantor Sharon Bernstein's fabulous performance at Cantor Unplugged V.  
**Brian & Susan Kheel** in loving memory of Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk.

## General Fund

**Anonymous** in honor of the volunteers who make CSZ events so successful.  
**Roy Bateman**  
**Allan Berenstein** in honor of Eileen & Char. in memory of Aaron Nacamulli, Cheryl Orvis, Bill Ashley-Dobbin, Eli Weinstein and Ziggy Gimincer.  
**Henry Carrey** in memory of his father, Abraham Carrey.  
**Dan Chesir** in memory of Esther Saslafsky.  
**Kelly Cytron & Judy Hogan**  
**Evelyn & Walter Haas Jr. Fund**  
**Bill Fike**  
**Manny Fishman & Leslie Kane** in honor of Alex Ingersoll's bar mitzvah.  
**Alan Gordon & Steve Schumacher** in honor of Emma Simonoff's bat mitzvah.  
in honor of Carly Ryan's bat mitzvah.  
in memory of David Tilzer.  
**Alice Harron**  
**Judith Hedgepeth** in memory of Esther Saslafsky.

**Murray Kane**

**Elizabeth Kantor** in memory of Esther Saslafsky.

**Jean Katz** in honor of "Team Rosie".

**Josh Kline** in memory of Evelyn Leader Bergson.

**Nancy Koch**

**Shoshana Levenberg & Andrea Guerra** in honor of Florence & Steve Nacamulli's loving generosity.

**Linda Marks & Earl Blauner** in honor of Sara, Dev and Jesse.

**Richard Mironov & Marcia Kadanoff**

**Jeanette Nichols** in memory of Isa Cymrot-Wu. in memory of Phyllis Mintzer.

**Janice Phillips** in memory of Martin M. Phillips.

**Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz** in memory of David Tilzer.

**Ethel Regan**

**Marci Riseman & Evan Sagerman**

**Hilda Rosenfeld**

**Alan Schaer** in memory of David Erwin Tilzer.

**Barry Schmell** in memory of his mother, Shirley Schmell.

**Craig Shear** in memory of David Tilzer.

**Sharon Strassfeld** in honor of her son and grandson, Max & Micah Strassfeld. in memory of Brent Treiger.

**Martin Tilzer** in honor of Rabbi Angel.

**Marc Wernick** in honor of Char O'Neill & Eileen Lynette's auf ruf.

**Andrew & Michele Williamson** in memory of Leon LeMeteyer and Jerry Davis.

**Margie Wirth**

**Ami Zusman** in memory of her mother, Hilda Saperstein.

## High Holiday Pledges 5772

**Stephanie Alber**

**Judith Bell & Jim Greenberg**

**Ray Bernstein**

**Diana Buchbinder & Jeane Redsecker**

**Pat Byers**

**Steven Diller**

**Rebecca & Sam Dorman**

**Eileen Dunn**

**Ron Edelman**

**Louise Fischer**

**Paul Fishman & Mike Kurokawa**

**Terry Fletcher & Glen Hauer**

**Jerome Goldstein** in honor of Walter Leiss, Ron Lezell, Daniel Chesir and Rabbi Angel.

**Sara Gorr**

**Sara Haber & Beth Sousa**

**Marjorie Hilsenrad**

**Jason Honig**

**Jo Ellen Green & David Kaiser**

**Philip Kaplan & Ilona Turner**

**David Katznelson**

**Nancy Koch**

**Cynthia Kopec**

**Deena Lahn & Mary Schroeder**

**Tom Lakritz**

**Shoshana Levenberg & Andrea Guerra**

**Ron Lezell**

**Kendra Lubalin & Aimee Gross**

**Eileen Lynette**

**Billie Mandel & Ryan Buchholz Mandel**

**Kathy McHenry & Cindy Navarro**

**Ellen Murland & Barbara Rinkoff**

**Craig Persiko & Geoff Benjamin**

**Carolyn Pines & Judy Schwartz**

**Jeff Rubin**

**Jacquie Siegel**

**Arlene Singer**

**Deborah Udin & Lucy Cefalu**

**Susan Unger & Pam Erwin**

**David Wasserman**

**Lonnie Weiss**

**Gary Winter**

**Judith Wolfe**

## Music in the Mishkan Donations

**Manny Fishman & Leslie Kane**

**Sara Haber & Beth Sousa**

**Batya Kalis**

**Steve Mazer**

**Janis Portal**

**Arthur Slepian & Gerry Llamado**

**Martin Tannenbaum**

**John Weatherman & Louis Kelsh**

## Phyllis Mintzer Education Fund

**Sue Bojdak & Deb Yates** in honor of Sophie Hogan-Cytron's bat mitzvah.

**Ami Zusman** in honor of the bat mitzvah of Nina Patchell.

in honor of the bar mitzvah of Benjamin Gustavson-Scharf.

in honor of Sophie Hogan-Cytron's bat mitzvah.

in memory of her father, Benjamin Herzl.

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

**Steve Abensohn**

**Thomas & Marcie Charlesworth** in memory of Hal Podgur.

**Batya Kalis** in appreciation of Rabbi Angel.

**Kim & Justyn Lezin-Haveson**

**Steve Wiesner**



**December**

**2/3**

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **The Levine Ryan Family** *In honor of the occasion of Carly becoming a bat mitzvah*

Bimah Flowers & Saturday Kiddush Generously Sponsored by **Hershey Hirschkop** *In honor of the CSZ community*

**9/10**

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **The aunts and uncles of Benjamin Gustavson-Scharf** *In honor of Benjamin's bar mitzvah* Saturday Kiddush Generously Sponsored by **Judy Scharf, grandmother of Benjamin Gustavson-Scharf** *In honor of his becoming a bar mitzvah*

**16/17**

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Craig Persiko & Geoff Benjamin** *In honor of Neil Grungas*

Bimah Flowers & Saturday Kiddush Generously Sponsored by **Matthew Patchell & Ruth Bernstein** *On the occasion of Nina becoming a bat mitzvah*

**23/24**

Music, Flowers, Dance, Food and Drink Sponsored by **Alex Ingersoll and Martin Tannenbaum**

Hanukkah Family Service Sponsored by **Don Fischer**

**30/31**

Friday Oneg generously sponsored by **Alan Gordon** *In memory of his mother, Adrienne Gordon*

**January**

**6/7**

Bimah Flowers generously sponsored by **Ron & Phyllis Cytron** *In honor of the bat mitzvah of their granddaughter, Sophie*

Friday Oneg generously sponsored by **Marty Tilzer & Jeff Piade** *In memory of Marty's father, David Tilzer*

Saturday Kiddush generously sponsored by **Kelly Cytron & Judy Hogan and Sophie's grandmother, Jean Hogan** *In honor of Sophie's bat mitzvah*

**13/14**

Bimah Flowers generously sponsored by **Marsha Blachman** *In memory of her father, Berek (Ben) Blachman*

Friday Oneg generously sponsored by **Eileen Lynette & Charlene O'Neil** *In honor of their aufruf*

**27/28**

Friday Night Live generously sponsored by **Lisa Inman & Alisa Gilden** *In honor of Shaya's 5th birthday*

Bimah Flowers generously sponsored by **The Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk Musical Event Fund** *In honor of Cantor Unplugged*

Friday Oneg generously sponsored by **Marianne & Danielle Schlosser** *In honor of Marianne's Welcoming into the Covenant and Avery Marie's baby naming*



# CSZ "Home Made" Pesach Seder

2nd Night of Pesach, Saturday, April 7, 2012, promptly at 5:30 pm

\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY\*\*\*\*\*

Please list all attendees

Attendee Name	Check if age 12 or younger	Check if vegetarian

Please provide contact details for yourself, or the main contact person if you're registering as a group:

Name	
Email Address	
Phone #s (all)	

Please choose the type of dish you'd like to bring, and indicate the specific dish if you already know. If your party includes two or more people over twelve, you can bring either two or more times the quantity of the same eight-serving dish, or you can bring two or more different dishes. Just let us know. Please do not bring matzah, gefilte fish, hardboiled eggs or drinks; these will be provided.

Number of Dishes	Category*	Specific Item if you already know (See guidelines for non-dairy and chametz-free on the instruction sheet)
	HOT Vegetarian Entree	
	COLD Vegetarian Entree	
	HOT Vegetarian Side Dish	
	COLD Vegetarian Side Dish	
	HOT Fish Dish	
	COLD Fish Dish (no gefilte fish!)	

\*Entrée = Something substantive and hopefully protein-rich. Like a tofu matzah lasagna – yum! Side dish = a creative salad or a smaller item or, well, you get it.

Payment:

# Attendees Over 12 (CSZ members \$20, Non-members \$30)		@ \$20 =	\$
		@ \$30=	\$
Additional Contribution			\$
Total Enclosed:			\$

Please return your registration form with your check as soon as possible. We cannot reserve your seat until payment is received. **Deadline: Friday, March 30.**

Registration forms and payment should be sent to the office at 290 Dolores Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.



## Naches

Mazel Tov to Ellie Cohen who is receiving in February the Bay Nature Local Hero Award in Conservation Action and Advocacy for her tireless and inspirational efforts to save the natural landscape of the Bay Area.

Mazel tov to Ilona Turner, who will join the Transgender Law Center as its new legal director in January 2012. She will help lead the organization's efforts to advance the rights and safety of the nation's diverse transgender communities through litigation, public policy, and public education initiatives.

Mazel Tov to Bevan Dufty on being appointed by Mayor Ed Lee to be Director of Housing Opportunity, Partnerships and Engagement (HOPE) in San Francisco.

Mazel Tov to Sophie Macks, Fammy Awardee, March 24, at the JFCS Fammy Awards, for her work in Emergency Family Assistance and YouthFirst for teens.

## Life Cycles

Mazel tov to Carly Ryan, on the occasion of her becoming a bat mitzvah!

Mazel tov to Benjamin Gustavson-

Scharf, on the occasion of his becoming a bar mitzvah!

Mazel tov to Nina Patchell, on the occasion of her becoming a bat mitzvah!

Mazel Tov to Sophie Hogan-Cytron on becoming a bat mitzvah!

Mazel tov to Eileen Lynette and Char O'Neil on their wedding!

Mazel Tov to Marianne Schlosser on her welcoming into the Covenant and to Marianne and Danielle Schlosser and Avery Marie on Avery's Naming.

## Welcome to New and Returning Members

Adin Eichler  
Will Korthof  
Matthew Levine  
Kendra Lubalin and Aimee Gross  
Frances McGowan  
Kara Romanko  
Mallory Rome and Michal Blech  
Sharon Tanenbaum and Matty Person  
Nancy Wecker  
Ethan Weisinger

## Music in the Mishkan

### CSZ's Chamber Music Concert Series

Randall Weiss, Music Director

## "It's Sonata Unusual"

*Sonata No. 1 for viola and piano* — Darius Milhaud  
*Sonata No. 10 for violin and piano* — L. van Beethoven  
*Piano Quartet in A Major, Op. 26* — Johannes Brahms

**Sunday, March 11, 2012**

**4:00 p.m.**

Tickets: \$15 members; \$20 non-members  
Advance purchase by phone 415-861-6932  
Tickets also available at the door



## Condolences

We extend our condolences to Joan Lefkowitz on the loss of her aunt, Norma Jane.

We extend our condolences to Andrew Ramer on the loss of his step-brother, Evan Shepherd.

We extend our condolences to Terry Fletcher on the loss of her friend, Larry Goldberg.

We extend our condolences to Deborah Levy and Joshua and Yonah Levy on the loss of their grandmother and great-grandmother, Ethel Heller Pollak Regan.

## Member Yahrzeits

In Memory

### March

- 6 Pearl Lewin
- 7 Isabel Fishman
- 8 Seth Charney
- 16 Theodore Mendonca Jr.
- 16 Jamie Rosen
- 21 Rabbi Sanford Lowe
- 23 Noah Nacamulli
- 23 Paul Nemrow
- 28 Neill Rosen
- 31 James Harris Freedgood
- 31 Marvin Steele

### April

- 1 Adam Harris
- 2 Ronald Gertz
- 3 Abraham Cohen
- 6 Dennis Mitchell
- 21 Robert Serman
- 23 Michael Randall
- 24 Norma Faini-Pick

## Please Be in Touch With Me

I am eager to be in touch with all members of the CSZ family whenever there are occasions of joy or sadness in your lives.

Where there is a death in the family, please call me as soon as possible.

We very much want to be there with you at a time of grief.

*Rabbi Camille  
Shira Angel*

*Earnings Devoted to Philanthropy*

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Rabbi Camille Shira Angel



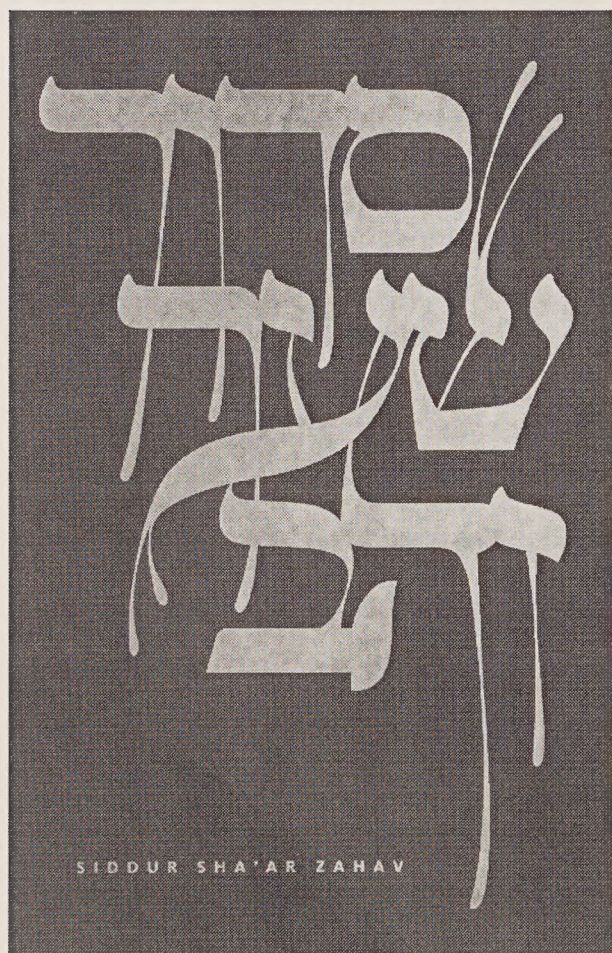
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A Shabbat, Weekday and Festival prayerbook  
for people of all sexual and gender identities

Bring a piece of Sha'ar Zahav home with this beautifully designed egalitarian siddur, filled with words written by members of our congregation. A book to treasure, you will turn to its pages for Shabbat kiddush, for memorial prayers, for times of happiness and sadness. Even when you can't make it to services, you will feel our community singing through these pages.

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